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PREPARATIONS FOR THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT ON THE BASIS OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 44/228 AND TAKING INTO ACCOUNT OTHER RELEVANT GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS: CROSS-SECTORAL ISSUES

Combating poverty, changing consumption patterns, and demographic dynamics and sustainability

(Section I, chapters 2, 3 and 4 of Agenda 21)

Text submitted by the Chairman on the basis of negotiations held on document A/CONF.151/PC/100/Add.2

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COMBATING POVERTY

(Sect. I, chap. 2)

PROGRAMME AREA

Enabling the poor to achieve sustainable livelihoods

Basis for action

1. Poverty is a complex multidimensional problem with origins in both the national and international domains. No uniform solution can be found for global application. Rather, country-specific programmes to tackle poverty and international efforts supporting national efforts as well as the parallel process of creating a supportive international environment are crucial for a solution to this problem. The eradication of poverty and hunger, greater equity in income distribution and human resources development remain major challenges everywhere. The struggle against poverty is the shared responsibility of all countries.

2. While managing resources sustainably, an environmental policy that focuses mainly on the conservation and protection of resources must take due account of those who depend on the resources for their livelihoods. Otherwise it could have an adverse impact both on poverty and chances for long-term success in resource and environmental conservation. Equally, a development policy that focuses mainly on increasing the production of goods without addressing the sustainability of the resources on which production is based will sooner or later run into declining productivity, which could also have an adverse impact on poverty. A specific anti-poverty strategy is therefore one of the basic conditions for ensuring sustainable development. An effective strategy for tackling problems of poverty, development and environment simultaneously should begin by focusing on resources, production and people, and should cover demographic issues, enhanced health care and education, the rights of women, the role of youth and of indigenous people and local communities and a democratic participation process in association with improved governance.

3. Integral to such action is, together with international support, the promotion of economic growth in developing countries which is both sustained and sustainable and direct action in eradicating poverty by strengthening employment and income-generating programmes.

Objectives

4. The long-term objective of enabling all people to achieve sustainable livelihoods should provide an integrating factor which allows policies to address issues of development, sustainable resource management, and poverty eradication simultaneously. The objectives of this programme area are:

(a) To provide all persons urgently with the opportunity to earn a sustainable livelihood;

(b) To implement policies and strategies which promote adequate levels of funding and focus on integrated human development policies, including income generation, increased local control of resources, local institution-strengthening and capacity-building and greater involvement of non-governmental organizations and local levels of government as delivery mechanisms;

(c) To develop for all poverty-stricken areas integrated strategies and programmes of sound and sustainable management of the environment, resource mobilization, poverty eradication and alleviation, employment and income generation;

(d) To create a focus in national development plans and budgets on investment in human capital, with special policies and programmes directed at rural areas, the urban poor, women and children.

Activities

5. Activities that will contribute to the integrated promotion of sustainable livelihoods and environmental protection cover a variety of sectoral interventions involving a range of actors, from local to global, and are essential at every level, especially the community and local levels. Enabling actions will be necessary at the national and international levels, taking full account of regional and subregional conditions to support a locally driven and country-specific approach. In general design, the programmes should:

(a) Focus on the empowerment of local and community groups through the principle of delegating authority, accountability and resources to the most appropriate level to ensure that the programme will be geographically and ecologically specific;

(b) Contain immediate measures to enable those groups to alleviate poverty and to develop sustainability;

(c) Contain a long-term strategy aimed at establishing the best possible conditions for sustainable local, regional and national development that would eliminate poverty and reduce the inequalities between various population groups. It should assist the most disadvantaged groups - in particular, women, children, and youth within those groups - refugees and people under occupation. The groups will include poor smallholders, pastoralists, artisans, fishing communities, landless people, indigenous communities, migrants and the urban informal sector.

6. The focus here is on specific cross-cutting measures - in particular, in the areas of basic education, primary/maternal health care, and the advancement of women. The measures should be supplemented, inter alia, by the

establishment of adequate framework conditions, structural adjustment, and the application of social measures required for their implementation.

(a) Empowering communities

7. Sustainable development must be achieved at every level of society. Peoples' organizations, women's groups and non-governmental organizations are important sources of innovation and action at the local level and have a strong interest and proven ability to promote sustainable livelihoods. Governments, in cooperation with appropriate international and non-governmental organizations should support a community-driven approach to sustainability, which would include, inter alia:

(a) Empowering women through full participation in decision-making;

(b) Respecting the cultural integrity and the rights of indigenous people[s];

(c) Promoting or establishing grass-roots mechanisms to allow for the sharing of experience and knowledge between communities;

(d) Giving communities a large measure of participation in the sustainable management and protection of the local natural resources in order to enhance their productive capacity;

(e) Establishing a network of community-based learning centres for capacity-building and sustainable development.

(b) Management-related activities

8. Governments, with the assistance of and in cooperation with appropriate international, non-governmental, and local community organizations, should establish measures which will directly or indirectly:

(a) Generate remunerative employment and productive occupational opportunities compatible with country-specific factor endowments, on a scale sufficient to take care of prospective increases in the labour force and to cover backlogs;

(b) With international support, where necessary, develop adequate infrastructure, marketing systems, technology systems, credit systems etc. and human resources to support the above actions and to achieve a widening of options for resource-poor people. High priority should be given to basic education and professional training;

(c) Provide substantial increases in economically efficient resource productivity and measures to ensure that the local population benefits in adequate measure from resource use;

(d) Empower community organizations and people to enable them to achieve sustainable livelihoods;

(e) Set up an effective primary health care and maternal health care system accessible to all;

(f) Consider strengthening/developing legal frameworks for land management, access to land resources and land ownership - in particular, for women - and for the protection of tenants;

(g) Rehabilitate degraded resources, to the extent practicable, and introduce policy measures to promote sustainable use of resources for basic human needs;

(h) Establish new community-based mechanisms and strengthen existing mechanisms to enable communities to gain sustained access to resources needed by the poor to overcome their poverty;

(i) Implement mechanisms for popular participation - particularly by poor people, especially women - in local community groups, to promote sustainable development;

(j) Implement, as a matter of urgency, in accordance with country-specific conditions, measures to ensure that women and men have the right to decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of their children, to have access to the appropriate information, education and means to enable them to exercise this right in keeping with their freedom, dignity and personally held values. Governments should take active steps to implement programmes to establish and strengthen preventive and curative health facilities, which include women-centred, women-managed, safe and effective reproductive health care and affordable, accessible, responsible planning of family size and services, as appropriate, in keeping with freedom, dignity and personally held values. Programmes should focus on providing comprehensive health care, including pre-natal care, education and information on health and responsible parenthood, and should provide all women with the opportunity to breast-feed during the first four months (post-partum). Programmes should fully support women's productive and reproductive roles and well-being, with special attention to the need for providing equal and improved health care for all children and the need to reduce the risk of maternal and child mortality and sickness;

(k) Adopt integrated policies aiming at sustainability in the management of urban centres;

(l) Undertake activities aimed at the promotion of food security and, where appropriate, food self-sufficiency within the context of sustainable agriculture;

(m) Support research on and integration of traditional methods of production which have been shown to be environmentally sustainable;

(n) Actively seek to recognize and integrate informal-sector activities into the economy, by removing regulations and hindrances that discriminate against activities in those sectors;

(o) Consider making available lines of credit and other facilities for the informal sector and improved access to land for the landless poor so that they can acquire the means of production and reliable access to natural resources. In many instances special considerations for women are required. Strict feasibility appraisals are needed for borrowers to avoid debt crises;

(p) Provide the poor with access to fresh water and sanitation;

(q) Provide the poor with access to primary education.

(c) Data, information and evaluation

9. Governments should improve the collection of information on target groups and target areas in order to facilitate the design of focused programmes and activities, consistent with the target-group needs and aspirations. Evaluation of such programmes should be gender-specific, since women are a particularly disadvantaged group.

(d) International and regional cooperation and coordination

10. The United Nations system, through its relevant organs, organizations and bodies, in cooperation with Member States and with appropriate international and non-governmental organizations, should make poverty alleviation a major priority and should:

(a) Assist Governments, when requested, in the formulation and implementation of national action programmes on poverty alleviation and sustainable development. Action-oriented activities of relevance to the above objectives, such as poverty eradication, projects and programmes supplemented where relevant by food aid, and support and special emphasis to employment and income generation, should be given particular attention in this regard;

(b) Promote technical cooperation among developing countries for poverty eradication activities;

(c) Strengthen existing structures in the United Nations system for coordination of action relating to poverty eradication, including inter alia the establishment of a focal point for information exchange and the formulation and implementation of replicable pilot projects to combat poverty;

(d) Give high priority in the follow-up of the implementation of Agenda 21 to review of the progress made in eradicating poverty;

(e) Examine the international economic framework including resource flows and structural adjustment programmes to ensure that social and environmental concerns are addressed. In this connection, conduct a review of

the policies of international organizations, bodies and agencies, including financial institutions to ensure the continued provision of basic services to the poor and needy;

(f) Promote international cooperation to address the root causes of poverty. The development process will not gather momentum if developing countries are weighted down by external indebtedness, if development finance is inadequate, if barriers restrict access to markets and if commodity prices and the terms of trade in developing countries remain depressed.

Means of implementation

[(a) Financing and cost evaluation]

[11. Direct costing of the array of activities envisaged above is not possible, since specific activities would be designed to respond to the specific conditions prevailing in each case] country. However, indirect costing points to an estimate in the very rough order of magnitude of US$ 30 billion, of which approximately $15 billion would be provided through external assistance if this effort is to be shared equally by recipients and donors.]

[12. The formulation and implementation of the global action programme mentioned in paragraph 5 above would require the strengthening of the international organizations concerned. Average annual costs over the period would be in the order of $50 million.]

[13. In many instances, these costs pertain to the implementation of activities included in various chapters of Agenda 21, so that funding for these activities would contribute to achieving both sectoral objectives and poverty alleviation.]

(b) Capacity-building

14. National capacity-building for implementation of the above activities is crucial and should be given high priority. It is particularly important to focus capacity-building at the local community level in order to support a community-driven approach to sustainability and to establish and strengthen mechanisms to allow sharing of experience and knowledge between community groups at a national and international level. Requirements for such activities are considerable and related to the various relevant sectors of Agenda 21, calling for requisite international, financial and technological support.

CHANGING CONSUMPTION PATTERNS

(Sect. I, chap. 3)

15. This chapter proposes two programmes:

(a) Focusing on unsustainable patterns of production and consumption;

(b) Developing national policies and strategies to encourage changes in unsustainable consumption patterns.

16. Since the issue is very broad, it is addressed in several parts of Agenda 21, notably those dealing with energy, transportation and wastes and in the chapters on economic instruments and transfer of technology. The present chapter should also be read in conjunction with the one below on demographic dynamics and sustainability.

PROGRAMME AREAS

A. Focusing on unsustainable patterns of production and consumption

Basis for action

[17. While poverty largely results in certain kinds of environmental stress, one of the most serious problems now facing the planet is that associated with historical patterns of unsustainable consumption and production, leading to environmental degradation, aggravation of poverty and imbalances in the development of countries.]

18. Measures to be undertaken at the international level for the protection and enhancement of the environment must take fully into account the current imbalances in the global patterns of consumption and production.

[19. Special attention should be paid to the demand for natural resources generated by unsustainable consumption and to efficient use of those resources consistent with the goal of minimizing depletion and reducing pollution. Although consumption patterns are very high in certain parts of the world, the basic consumer needs of a large section of humanity are not being met. This inequitable distribution of income and wealth results in excessive demands and unsustainable lifestyles among the richer segments, which place immense stress on the environment. The poorer, meanwhile, are unable to meet food, health care, shelter and educational needs. Changing consumption patterns will require a multipronged strategy focusing on demand, meeting the basic needs of the poor, and reducing wastage and the use of finite resources in the production process.]

20. Growing recognition of the importance of addressing consumption has also not yet been matched by understanding of its implications. Some economists

are questioning traditional concepts of economic growth and underlining the importance of pursuing economic objectives which take account of the full value of natural resource capital. More needs to be known about the role of consumption in relation to economic growth and population dynamics in order to formulate coherent international and national policies.

Objectives

21. Action is needed to meet the following broad objectives:

(a) Promotion of patterns of consumption and production that reduce environmental stress and will meet the basic needs of humanity;

(b) Development of better understanding of the role of consumption and how to bring about more sustainable consumption patterns.

Activities

(a) Management-related activities:

Adopt an international approach to achieving sustainable consumption patterns

[22. In principle, Governments should be guided by the following basic objectives in their efforts to address consumption in the context of environment and development:

(a) All countries should strive to promote sustainable consumption patterns;

(b) Developed countries should take the lead in achieving sustainable consumption patterns and lifestyles;

(c) Developing countries should seek to achieve sustainable consumption patterns in their development process, guaranteeing the provision of basic needs of the poor, without replicating those wasteful and inefficient consumption patterns of industrialized countries in their development processes. This requires [substantial] technological and other assistance from industrialized countries.

23. In the follow-up of the implementation of Agenda 21 the review of progress made in changing unsustainable consumption patterns should be given high priority.]

(b) Data and information:

(i) Undertake research on consumption

24. In order to support this broad strategy, Governments, and/or private research and policy institutes, with the assistance of regional and international economic and environmental organizations, should make a concerted effort to:

(a) Expand or promote databases on production and consumption and develop methodologies for analysing them;

(b) Assess the relationship between production and consumption, environment, technological adaptation and innovation, economic growth and development; and demographic factors;

(c) Examine the impact of ongoing changes in the structure of modern industrial economies away from materials intensive economic growth;

(d) Consider how economies can grow and prosper while reducing energy, material use and production of harmful materials;

(e) Identify balanced patterns of consumption world wide which the earth can support in the long term.

(ii) Develop new concepts of sustainable economic growth and prosperity

25. Consideration should also be given to the present concepts of economic growth, and the need for new concepts of wealth and prosperity, which allow higher standards of living through changed lifestyles and are less dependent on the Earth's finite resources and more in harmony with the Earth's carrying capacity. This should be reflected in the evolution of new systems of national accounts and other indicators of sustainable development.

(c) International cooperation and coordination:

26. While international review processes exist for examining economic, development and demographic factors, more attention needs to be paid to issues related to consumption and production patterns and sustainable lifestyles and environment.

27. In the follow-up of the implementation of Agenda 21, reviewing the role and impact of unsustainable production and consumption patterns and lifestyles and their relation to sustainable development should be given high priority.

[28. Financial costs:] [Implementation of this programme is unlikely to require significant new financial resources. A research programme and an international process, once established, would require support (probably in the range of about $1 million.)]

B. Developing national policies and strategies to encourage sustainable production and consumption patterns

Basis for action

29. Achieving the goals of environmental quality and sustainable development will require efficiency in production and changes in consumption patterns in order to emphasize optimization of resource use and minimization of waste. In many instances, this will require reorientation of existing production and consumption patterns which have developed in industrial societies, and which are in turn emulated in much of the world.

30. Progress can be made by strengthening positive trends and directions which are emerging, as part of a process aimed at achieving significant changes in consumption patterns of industries, Governments, households and individuals.

Objectives

31. In the years ahead Governments, working with appropriate organizations, should strive to meet the following broad objectives:

(a) Promote efficiency in production processes and reduce wasteful consumption in the process of economic growth, taking into account the development needs of developing countries;

(b) Develop a domestic policy framework which will encourage a shift to more sustainable patterns of production and consumption;

(c) Reinforce both values which encourage sustainable production and consumption patterns, and policies which encourage the transfer of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries.

Activities

(a) Encourage greater efficiency in the use of energy and resources

32. [Reducing the amount] [More efficient use] of energy and materials used in the production of goods and services can contribute both to the alleviation of environmental stress, and to greater economic and industrial productivity and competitiveness. Governments, in cooperation with industry, should therefore intensify efforts to use energy and resources in an economically efficient and environmentally sound manner, in the following ways:

(a) Encourage the dissemination of existing environmentally sound technologies;

(b) Promote research and development in environmentally sound technologies;

(c) Assist developing countries to use these technologies efficiently, and to develop technologies suited to their particular circumstances;

(d) Encourage the environmentally sound use of new and renewable sources of energy;

(e) Encourage the environmentally sound and sustainable use of renewable natural resources.

(b) Minimize the generation of wastes

33. At the same time, society needs to develop effective ways of dealing with the problem of disposing of mounting levels of waste products and materials. Governments, together with industry, households and the public, should make a concerted effort to reduce the generation of wastes and waste products in the following ways:

(a) Encourage recycling in industrial processes and at the consumed level;

(b) Reduce wasteful packaging of products;

(c) Encourage the introduction of more environmentally sound products.

(c) Assist individuals and households to make environmentally sound purchasing decisions

34. The recent emergence in many countries of a more environmentally conscious consumer public, combined with increased interest on the part of some industries in providing environmentally sound consumer products, is a significant development which should be encouraged. Governments and international organizations, together with the private sector, should develop criteria and methodologies for the assessment of environmental impacts and resource requirements throughout the full life cycle of products and processes. Results of those assessments should be transformed into clear indicators in order to inform consumers and decision makers.

35. Governments, in cooperation with industry and other relevant groups, should encourage expansion of environmental labelling and other environmentally related product information programmes designed to assist consumers to make informed choices.

36. They should also encourage other ways of assisting individuals and households to make environmentally informed choices, in the following ways:

(a) Provide information on the consequences of consumption choices and behaviour, so as to encourage demand for environmentally sound products and use of products;

(b) Make consumers aware of the health and environmental impact of products, through means such as consumer legislation and environmental labelling;

(c) Encourage specific consumer-oriented programmes such as recycling and deposit/refund systems.

(d) Exercise leadership through government purchasing

37. Governments themselves also play a role in consumption, particularly in countries where the public sector plays a large role in the economy and can have a considerable influence on both corporate decisions and public perceptions. They should therefore review the purchasing policies of their agencies and departments so that they may improve, where possible, the environmental content of government procurement policies, without prejudice to international trade principles.

(e) Move towards environmentally sound pricing

38. Without the stimulus of prices and market signals which make clear to producers and consumers the environmental costs of the consumption of energy, materials, and natural resources and the generation of wastes, significant changes in consumption and production patterns seem unlikely to occur in the near future.

39. Some progress has begun in the use of appropriate economic instruments to influence consumer behaviour. These instruments include environmental charges and taxes, deposit/refund systems and other price-related economic instruments. This process should be encouraged in the light of country-specific conditions.

(f) Reinforcing values which support sustainable consumption

40. Governments and private-sector organizations should promote more positive attitudes towards sustainable consumption through education, public awareness programmes and other means such as positive advertising of products and services that utilize environmentally sound technologies or encourage sustainable production and consumption patterns. In the review of the implementation of Agenda 21, an assessment of the progress achieved in developing these national policies and strategies should be given due consideration.

Means of implementation

41. This programme is concerned primarily with changes in unsustainable patterns of consumption and production and values that encourage sustainable consumption patterns and lifestyles. It requires the combined efforts of Governments, consumers and producers. Particular attention should be paid to the significant role which women and households play as consumers and the potential impacts of their combined purchasing power on the economy.

DEMOGRAPHIC DYNAMICS AND SUSTAINABILITY

(Sect. I, chap. 4)

42. This chapter presents three programme areas:

(a) Developing and disseminating knowledge concerning the links between demographic trends and factors and sustainable development;

(b) Formulating integrated national policies for population, environment and development;

(c) Implementing integrated population, environment and development programmes at the local level.

PROGRAMME AREAS

A. Developing and disseminating knowledge concerning the links between demographic trends and factors and sustainable development

Basis for action

43. Demographic trends and factors and sustainable development have a synergistic relationship.

44. The growth of world population and production combined with unsustainable consumption patterns places increasingly severe stress on the life-supporting capacities of our planet. These interactive processes affect the use of land, water, air, energy and other resources. Unless well-managed, rapidly growing cities face major environmental problems. The increase in both the number and size of cities calls for greater attention to issues of local government and municipal management. Human dimensions are key elements to consider in this intricate set of relationships and they should be adequately taken into consideration in comprehensive policies for sustainable development. Such policies should address the linkages of demographic trends and factors, resource use, [appropriate technology dissemination,] and development. Population policy should also recognize the role played by human beings in environmental and development concerns. There is need to increase awareness of this issue among decision makers at all levels and to provide better information on which to base national and international policies and framework against which to interpret this information.

45. There is a need to develop strategies to mitigate both the adverse impact on the environment of human activities as well as the adverse impact of environmental change on human populations. The world's population is expected to reach over 8 billion by the year 2020. Sixty percent of the world's population already live in coastal areas, while 65 per cent of cities with populations above 2.5 million are located along the world coasts and several of them are already at or below the present sea level.

Objectives

46. The following objectives should be achieved as soon as practicable:

(a) Incorporate demographic trends and factors in the global analysis of environment and development issues;

(b) Develop a better understanding of the relationships among demographic dynamics, technology, cultural behaviour, natural resources, and life support systems;

(c) Assess human vulnerability in ecologically sensitive areas and centres of population to determine the priorities for action at all levels, taking full account of community defined needs.

Activities

Research on interaction between demographic trends and factors, and sustainable development

47. Relevant international, regional and national institutions should consider undertaking the following activities:

(a) Identify the interactions between demographic processes, natural resources and life support systems, bearing in mind regional and subregional variations deriving from, inter alia, different levels of development;

(b) Integrate demographic trends and factors into the ongoing study of environmental change, using the expertise of international, regional and national research networks, and of local communities to first study the human dimensions of environmental change and, second, to identify vulnerable areas;

(c) Identify priority areas for action and develop strategies and programmes to mitigate the adverse impact of environmental change on human populations, and vice versa.

Means of implementation

(a) Financing and cost evaluation

48. [Research and dissemination of results will require US$ 10 million annually from international sources.] It should be adequately financed taking into account the role of existing agencies in this field .

(b) Strengthen research programmes that integrate population, environment and development

49. In order to integrate demographic analysis as part of a broader social sciences perspective of environment and development, interdisciplinary research should be increased. International institutions and networks of

experts should enhance their scientific capacity taking full account of community experience and knowledge, and disseminate the experience gained in multidisciplinary approaches and in linking theory to action.

50. Better modelling capabilities should be developed, identifying the range of possible outcomes of current human activities, especially the interrelated impact of demographic trends and factors, per capita resource use and wealth distribution, as well as major migration flows which may be expected with increasing climatic events and cumulative environmental change that may destroy people's local livelihoods.

(c) Develop information and public awareness

51. Socio-demographic information should be developed in a suitable format for interfacing with physical, biological and socio-economic data. Compatible spatial and temporal scales, cross-country and time-series information, as well as global behavioral indicators should be developed, learning from local communities' perceptions and attitudes.

52. Awareness should be increased at all levels about the need to optimize the sustainable use of resources through efficient resource management taking into account the development needs of the populations of developing countries.

53. Awareness should be increased of the fundamental linkages between improving the status of women and demographic dynamics, particularly through women's access to education, primary and reproductive health care programmes, economic independence and the access to effective, equitable participation in all levels of decision-making.

54. Results of research should be disseminated through technical reports, scientific journals, the media, workshops, forums or other means concerned with sustainable development issues so that it can be used by decision makers at all levels and increase public awareness.

(d) Develop and/or enhance institutional capacity and collaboration

55. Collaboration and exchange of information should be increased between research institutions and international, regional and national agencies and all other sectors (including the private sector, local communities, non-governmental organizations and scientific institutions) from both the industrialized and developing countries, as appropriate.

56. Efforts should be intensified to enhance the capacities of national and local governments, private sector and non-governmental organizations in developing countries to meet the growing needs for improved management of rapidly growing urban areas.

B. Formulating integrated national policies for population and environment and development

Basis for action

57. Existing plans for sustainable development have generally recognized demographic trends and factors as critical elements which influence consumption patterns, production, lifestyles and long-term sustainability. But in future, more attention will have to be given to these issues in general policy formulation and the design of development plans. To do this, all countries will have to improve their own capacities to assess the environment and development implications of their demographic trends and factors. As well, they will need to formulate and implement policies and action programmes where appropriate. Policies should be designed to address the consequences of population growth built into population momentum, while, at the same time, incorporating measures to bring about demographic transition. They should combine environmental concerns and population issues within a holistic view of development where the primary goals include: alleviation of poverty; secure livelihoods; good health; quality of life; improvement of the status and income of women and their access to schooling and professional training, fulfilment of their personal aspirations; and empowerment of individuals and communities. Recognizing that large increases in the size and number of cities will occur in developing countries under any likely population scenario, greater attention should be given to preparing for the needs of improved municipal management and local government.

Objective

58. Full integration of population concerns into national planning, policy and decision-making process should continue. Population policies and programmes should be considered, with full recognition of women's rights.

Activities

59. Governments and other relevant actors could, inter alia, undertake the following activities, with appropriate assistance of aid agencies, and report on their status of implementation to the 1994 United Nations Conference on Population and Development, especially to its Committee on Population and Environment.

(a) Assess the implications of national demographic trends and factors

60. The relationships between demographic trends and factors, and environmental change, and between environmental degradation and the components of demographic change should be analysed.

61. Research should be conducted on how environmental factors interact with socio-economic ones as a cause of migration.

62. Vulnerable population groups should be identified (such as rural landless workers, ethnic minorities, refugees, migrants, displaced people, women heads of household) whose changes in demographic structure may have specific impacts on sustainable development.

63. An assessment should be made of the implications of the age structure of the population on resource demand and dependency burdens, ranging from educational expenses for the young, to health care and support for the elderly, and household income generation.

64. An assessment should also be made of national population carrying capacity in the context of satisfaction of human needs and sustainable development, and give special attention to critical resources, such as water and land, and environmental factors, such as ecosystem health and biodiversity.

65. The impact of national demographic trends and factors on the traditional livelihoods of indigenous groups and local communities, including changes in traditional land use because of internal population pressures, should be studied.

(b) Build and strengthen a national information base

66. National databases on demographic trends and factors and environment should be built and/or strengthened, disaggregating data by ecological region (ecosystem approach) and population/environment profiles established by region.

67. Methodologies and instruments should be developed to identify areas where sustainability is, or may be, threatened by the environmental effects of demographic trends and factors, incorporating both current and projected demographic data linked to natural environmental processes.

68. Case studies should be developed of local level responses by different groups to demographic dynamics particularly in areas subject to environmental stress and deteriorating urban centres.

69. Population data should be disaggregated by, inter alia, sex and age in order to take into account the implications of the gender division of labour for the use and management of natural resources.

(c) Incorporate demographic features into policy and plans

70. In formulating human settlements policies, account should be taken of the resource needs, waste production and ecosystem health.

71. The direct and induced effects of demographic changes in environment and development programmes should, where appropriate, be integrated, and the impact on demographic features assessed.

72. National population policy goals and programmes consistent with national environment and development plans for sustainability, and in keeping with individuals' freedom, dignity and personally held values, should be set and implemented.

73. Appropriate socio-economic policies for the young and the elderly, both in terms of family and state support systems, should be developed.

74. Policies and programmes should be developed for handling the various types of migrations that result from, or induce environmental disruptions, with special attention to women and vulnerable groups.

75. Demographic concerns, including concerns for environmental migrants and displaced people, should be incorporated in the programmes for sustainable development of relevant international and regional institutions.

76. National reviews should be conducted and the integration of population policies in national development and environment strategies should be monitored nationally.

Means of implementation

(a) Financing and cost evaluation

77. [The implementation of these activities by Governments will require at least $90 million annually from international sources.]

(b) Raise awareness of demographic and sustainable development interactions

78. Understanding should be increased in all sections of society of the interactions between demographic trends and factors, and sustainable development. Stress should be put on local and national action. Demographic and sustainable development education should be coordinated and integrated both in the formal and non-formal education sectors. Particular attention should be given to population literacy programmes, notably for women. Special emphasis should be placed on the linkage between these programmes, primary environmental care and the provision of primary health care and services.

(c) Strengthen institutions

79. The capacity of national, regional and local structures to deal with issues relating to demographic trends and factors, and sustainable development should be enhanced. This would involve strengthening the relevant bodies responsible for population issues to enable them to elaborate policies consistent with the national prospects for sustainable development. Cooperation among government, national research institutions, non-governmental organizations and local communities in assessing problems and evaluating policies should also be enhanced.

80. The capacity of the relevant United Nations organs, organizations and bodies, international and regional intergovernmental bodies, non-governmental organizations and local communities should, as appropriate, be enhanced to help countries develop sustainable development policies on request and, as appropriate, provide assistance to environmental migrants and displaced people.

81. Inter-agency support for national sustainable development policies and programmes should be improved through better coordination of population and environment activities.

(d) Promote human resources development

82. The international and regional scientific institutions should assist Governments upon request to include concerns for the population/environment interactions at the global, ecosystem and micro-levels in the training of demographers, population and environment specialists. Training should include research on linkages and ways to design integrated strategies.

C. Implementing integrated population, environment and development programmes at the local level

Basis for action

83. Population programmes are more effective when implemented together with appropriate cross-sectoral policies. In order to attain sustainability at the local level, a new framework is needed that integrates demographic trends and factors with other factors such as ecosystem health, technology, human settlements, and with socio-economic structures and access to resources. Population programmes should be consistent with socio-economic and environmental planning. Integrated sustainable development programmes should closely correlate action on demographic trends and factors with resources management activities and development goals meeting the needs of the people concerned.

Objective

84. Population programmes along with natural resources management and development programmes at the local level, that will ensure sustainable use of natural resources, improve the quality of life of the people and enhance environmental quality should be implemented.

Activities

85. Governments, local communities including community-based women's organizations and national non-governmental organizations could, inter alia, undertake the activities set out below with the assistance and cooperation of international organizations, as appropriate. Governments could share their experience in their implementation of Agenda 21 with the 1994 United Nations Conference on Population and Development, especially to its Committee on Population and Environment.

(a) Develop a framework for action

86. An effective consultative process should be established and implemented with concerned groups of society where the formulation and decision-making of all components of the programmes are based on a nationwide consultative process drawing on community meetings, regional workshops and national seminars, as appropriate. This process should ensure that views of women and men on needs, perspective and constraints are equally well reflected in the design of programmes, and that solutions are rooted in specific experience. The poor and underprivileged should be priority groups in this process.

87. Nationally determined policies for integrated and multifaceted programmes, with special attention to women, to the poorest people living in critical areas and to other vulnerable groups should be implemented, ensuring the involvement of groups with a special potential to act as agents for change and sustainable development. Special emphasis should be placed on those programmes that achieve multiple objectives, encouraging sustainable economic development, and mitigating adverse impacts of demographic trends and factors, and avoiding long-term environmental damage. Food security, access to secure tenure, basic shelter, and essential infrastructure, education, family welfare, women's reproductive health, family credit schemes, reforestation programmes, primary environmental care, women's employment should, as appropriate, be included among other factors.

88. An analytical framework should be developed to identify complementary elements of sustainable development policies as well as the national mechanisms to monitor and evaluate their effects on population dynamics.

89. Special attention should be given to the critical role of women in population/environment programmes and in achieving sustainable development. Projects should take advantage of opportunities to link social, economic and environmental gains for women and their families. Empowerment of women is essential and should be assured through education, training and policies to accord and improve women's right and access to assets, human and civil rights, labour-saving measures, job opportunities and participation in decision-making. Population/environment programmes must enable women to mobilize themselves to alleviate their burden and improve their capacity to participate in and benefit from socio-economic development. Specific measures should be undertaken to close the gap between female and male illiteracy rates.

(b) Support programmes which promote changes in demographic trends and factors towards sustainability

90. Consistent with national plans, objectives, strategies and priorities, reproductive health programmes and services, should, as appropriate, be developed and enhanced to reduce maternal and infant mortality from all causes and enable women and men to fulfil their personal aspirations in terms of family size, in a way in keeping with their freedom and dignity and personally held values.

91. Governments should implement, as a matter of urgency, in accordance with country-specific conditions, measures to ensure that women and men, without bias of gender, have the right to decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of their children, to have access to the information, education and means, as appropriate, to enable them to exercise this right in keeping with their freedom, dignity and personally held values.

92. Governments should take active steps to implement programmes to establish and strengthen preventive and curative health facilities, which include women-centred, women-managed, safe and effective reproductive health care and affordable, accessible, responsible planning of family size and services, as appropriate in keeping with freedom, dignity and personally held values. Programmes should focus on providing comprehensive health care, including pre-natal care, education and information on health and responsible parenthood and should provide the opportunity for all women to breast-feed during the first four months (post-partum). Programmes should fully support women's productive and reproductive roles and well-being, with special attention to the need for providing equal and improved health care for all children and the need to reduce the risk of maternal and child mortality and sickness.

93. Consistent with national priorities, culturally based information and education programmes that transmit reproductive health messages to men and women that are easily understood should be developed.

(c) Create appropriate institutional conditions

94. Constituencies and institutional conditions to facilitate the implementation of demographic activities should, as appropriate, be fostered. This requires support and commitment from political, indigenous, religious and traditional authorities, the private sector and the national scientific community. In developing these appropriate institutional conditions, countries should closely involve established national machinery for women.

95. Population assistance should be coordinated with bilateral and multilateral donors to ensure that population needs and requirements of all developing countries are addressed, fully respecting the overall coordinating responsibility, and the choice and strategies of the recipient countries.

96. Coordination should be improved at local and international level. Working practices should be enhanced in order to make optimum use of resources, draw on collective experience and improve the implementation of programmes. UNFPA and other relevant agencies should strengthen the coordination of international cooperation activities with recipient and donor countries in order to assure that adequate funding is available to respond to growing needs.

97. Proposals should be developed for local, national and international population/environment programmes in line with specific needs for achieving sustainability. Where appropriate, institutional changes must be implemented so that old-age security does not entirely depend on input from family members.

Means of implementation

(a) Financial and cost evaluation

98. [The total resources, national as well as external, currently devoted to population activities in developing countries is estimated to be $4.5 billion a year. Of that amount, nearly 80 per cent is provided by developing countries themselves. To carry out intensified programmes, and implement integrated population/environment actions in line with the above activities, an average of $7 billion is needed annually in the 1993-2000 period, of which about half is required from international sources. The goal is to mobilize resources amounting to $9 billion a year by the turn of the century. About $6 million annually is needed to strengthen international institutions.]

(b) Research

99. Research should be undertaken with a view to developing specific action programmes; it will be necessary to establish priorities between proposed areas of research.

100. Socio-demographic research should be conducted on how populations respond to a changing environment.

101. Understanding of socio-cultural and political factors that can positively influence acceptance of appropriate population policy instruments should be improved.

102. Surveys of changes in needs for appropriate services relating to responsible planning of family size, reflecting variations among different socio-economic groups, and in different geographical regions should be undertaken.

(c) Human resources development and capacity-building

103. The areas of human resources development and capacity-building, with particular attention to education and training of women, are areas of critical importance and are a very high priority in the implementation of population programmes.

104. Workshops to help programme and projects managers to link population programmes to other development and environmental goals should be conducted.

105. Educational materials, including guides/workbooks for planners and decision makers and other actors of population/environment/development programmes, should be developed.

106. Cooperation should be developed between Governments, scientific institutions and non-governmental organizations within the region, and similar institutions outside the region. Cooperation with local organizations should be fostered in order to raise awareness, engage in demonstration projects and report on the experience gained.

107. Recommendations contained in this section should in no way prejudice discussions in the International Conference on Population and Development (1994), which would be the appropriate forum to deal with population and development issues.